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Have a Safe and Enjoyable 4th of July Holiday!

Administration News

1. Governor Kasich Signs SB316, Other Key Legislation

Governor John Kasich signed Senate Bill 316 into law on June 25, 2012. The legislation includes statutory provisions making Ohio an *Employment First* state. This is in addition to the Executive Order signed in March that created an *Employment First* Task Force, further reinforcing efforts to create an environment that fosters work opportunities for *all citizens* to explore.

Specifically, a section of SB316 states, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities be directed at placement whenever possible of each individual in a position in the community in which the individual is integrated with the employer's other workers who are not developmentally disabled. The departments of Developmental Disabilities, Education, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health; the Rehabilitation Services Commission; and each other state agency that provides employment services to individuals with developmental disabilities shall implement this policy, and ensure that it is followed whenever employment services are provided to individuals with developmental disabilities."

On June 26 the Governor signed an additional 13 bills, including the Administration's Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) budget packages on and local governments and various services.

Other key legislation receiving Governor Kasich's signature included SB314, changing the name of the Department of Development to the 'Development Services Agency.'



Budget Information

With the completion of the MBR, the Administration will be turning its attention to the next Biennial Budget plan, (2014-15), for which the Governor has asked state agencies to consider two scenarios ... one for no growth in funding, and one in which agencies would have a 10% reduction in general revenue funds. The 2014-15 budget must be in place by July 1, 2013.

State Budget Director Tim Keen, explained recently that this starting point for planning allows for adjustments down the line, noting, "We can take the information we get in this exercise and then we can adapt, based on the circumstances in place over the next six months, and given the individual circumstances that an agency faces." Also regarding budget planning, in an article in the *Dayton Business Journal*, **Gov. Kasich rolls out reforms**, June 21, 2012, Director Keen spoke of DODD's efforts during the MBR process, stating,

"After an in-depth review of laws and policies affecting its programs, the Department of Developmental Disabilities made numerous recommendations for improvement that help the Department and its local-agency partners provide better, more efficient services."

More information about the state budget is at <http://obm.ohio.gov/> and <http://dodd.ohio.gov/oht.htm>



2. Terminology Clarification, Changes for ICFs

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Services officially has changed the terminology from ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded) to ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities). The change follows approximately three years after Ohio passed legislation (2009) to rename the state Department, all 88 County Boards and related agencies, as well as changing any previously-used descriptive language that used 'mental retardation' to the words 'developmental disabilities.'

The new rule also would replace the terms 'mental retardation' and 'mentally retarded' with "intellectual disability" and "intellectually disabled" in language describing the governance of the ICF program, and would remove the time limit on provider agreements with ICFs.

**The rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-16/pdf/2012-11543.pdf>.
Page 13 of the document discusses the terminology change.**

NOTE: The change from ICF/MR to ICF/IID may be more simplified in documents by using the wording, 'Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities' followed by the acronym (ICF/IID) at first usage, and then referring to it as Intermediate Care Facility or 'ICF' thereafter within the document or presentation.

A Little Background

The recently-passed Rosa's Law, which struck the "MR" words from a number of federal statutes, did not specifically list the Social Security Act within its scope, and therefore did not require any change to existing CMS regulations. The agency, "In response to numerous inquiries from provider and advocate organizations questioning when CMS would comply with the spirit of Rosa's Law," has adopted the term "intellectual disability" (as used under Rosa's Law) in its regulations at § 400.203. The change in wording "does not represent any change in information collection requirements, or other burden for the provider community or the State survey agencies," according to the rule.

[See Rosa's Law at: Rosa's Law information](#)

Also regarding the recent CMS ruling, current regulations limit ICFs' provider agreements under Medicaid to annual time limits. The CMS rule removes the time-limited agreements for ICFs and replaces it with an open-ended agreement which, consistent with nursing facilities, would remain in effect until the Secretary or a state determines that the ICF no longer meets the conditions of participation. The new regulations also add a requirement that a certified ICF must be surveyed an average of every 12 months, with a maximum survey interval of 15-months. This replaces current regulations that require the facilities to be surveyed for compliance with conditions of participation at least every 12 months, on a relatively fixed schedule.

Acknowledgements to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) June 22, 2012 newsletter, and to the DODD Division of Legal and Oversight.



3. 'Surviving Change' Training Explores Medicaid Waivers

The Arc of Ohio hosted training on June 29 in Worthington, featuring the latest information on Medicaid waivers affecting Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. The theme, "Surviving Change," addressed changes currently underway in Ohio's Medicaid system as it moves to a Managed Care concept, as well as information about the Transitions Waiver and the new Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.

In attendance was a mix of more than 175 individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, service and support professionals, and others, all of whom were actively engaged in learning about the many upcoming changes. Presenters included Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy; Lori Horvath, DODD lead person for the Transitions Waiver; and, the team of DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin and *The Arc of Ohio* Director Gary Tonks on the subject of the SELF waiver. A great deal of information was presented throughout the day, some of which we share briefly below, along with online links.

Medicaid/Medicare and Managed Care

Director McCarthy noted that in putting together a Managed Care demonstration proposal, Ohio Medicaid utilized a payment structure that blends Medicare and Medicaid funding, and mitigates the conflicting incentives that have existed between Medicaid and Medicare. As a demonstration project the Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) proposal is intended to be rolled out in seven urban regions within the state, and enrollment would begin in 2013. He noted, "We have heard loud and clear from Ohio citizens, that continuity of care is important. We have that front and center in our ICDS proposal – coordination of care and better outcomes are a part of this plan."

More information at the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) website at:
[Integrate Medicare and Medicaid benefits](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov)
(www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov)

Director McCarthy also noted that as part of the overall review of the Medicaid system, Office of Health Transformation (OHT) partners are looking at several ways to improve and streamline operations so that there is ‘no wrong front door,’ from which to approach the system, and so that local agencies such as County Boards of DD and others are more fully informed. He stated, “That’s definitely all part of the conversation.”

Transitions Waiver

DODD lead person on the Transitions Waiver, Lori Horvath, presented an update on the Transitions Waiver – also known as the Transitions/Developmental Disabilities or ‘TDD’ waiver. Developed in 2002 and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Transitions Waiver was recently mentioned as an element within HB 153, as a tool for improving services to individuals with DD who are transitioning from school to work environments.

Horvath also noted that individuals receiving services on the Transitions Waiver are designated as having a Developmental Disabilities ‘Level of Care’ rather than a Nursing Home ‘Level of Care,’ and that the changeover from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (DJFS) to DODD as administrators for the waiver is on-track to occur January 1, 2013. In answer to a question about services under the waiver, she replied,

“We are not planning to cut services. The administration of the waiver will change, but unless the person’s needs change, the waiver services for them will remain the same.”

She added that in order to gear-up properly for DODD to administer the waiver, there will be additional technical staff considerations, including the addition of a nurse to the Transitions Waiver team, and other support needs that are being explored.

SELF Waiver

Enrollment for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began this week, in-line with the July 1 effective date. At the June 29 training, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin and *The Arc of Ohio* Executive Director Gary Tonks combined efforts to provide information from their unique individual- and family-oriented perspectives. With many in attendance, there were several questions about specific services and options under the new waiver, as detailed in the new handbook, distributed and reviewed.

The new SELF waiver handbook has been prepared to use in tandem with SELF training, and as a general resource. It is online at [SELF Waiver Handbook](#).

Questions included one about Community Inclusion – defined broadly as services that provide supports that promote individuals’ participation in their communities. The service includes opportunities and experiences that focus on socialization and/or therapeutic recreational activities, as well as personal growth in the home and community. Community Inclusion also can include peer support activities and organization of self-advocacy events. Peggy noted,

“The service, ‘Community Inclusion,’ likely will be one of the most utilized services on the SELF waiver. That and ‘Integrated Employment,’ as it provides supports needed by a participant to acquire and maintain a job in the general workforce at or above the state minimum wage.”

DODD and *The Arc of Ohio* are collaborating to provide intensive training for individuals and family members throughout the state regarding this new waiver, and to encourage families' comments and questions. Gary Tonks commented, "Support for the family whenever possible is a big part of how this waiver was designed." He emphasized,

"The Arc strongly supports reaching outside the traditional developmental disabilities community to provide some services, and add to the individual's day-to-day experiences. Both the DODD Administration and The Arc are encouraged about the opportunities families can have with the SELF Waiver."

More information about the SELF waiver is online at [SELF Waiver](#)



Health & Safety

4. The Aftermath of the June 29 Weekend Severe Storms

Many areas of the state are dealing with dire situations in the aftermath of the June 29 storms. Here is a little information that may be helpful, and a short report from one provider as to their experience.

DODD thanks our partners in the Ohio Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and other state agency partners and direct service providers for their many extra efforts during these trying times.

From the Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Emergency Operations Center

Many public water systems in Ohio are experiencing power outages and depressurizations due to the recent storms. Unsafe water conditions may occur if a public water system depressurizes and organisms that can cause illness in people enter the water supply.

Citizens who have experienced low/no water pressure, and are unable to communicate with their water provider regarding the status of the water system, should *use only boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food or baby formula*, as a precaution.

Known water advisories are online at: [Water Advisories](#).
Link: <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/Advisories/advisories.html>

The Ohio EPA offers the following tips for affected customers:

- Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for at least one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water.
- Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food or baby formula, until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- Water for bathing doesn't need to be boiled. Supervise children to avoid water being ingested.

A list of cooling shelters, emergency shelters, and water distribution locations are available through your [local Emergency Management Agency](#). Residents also may call their local 211 numbers for information and assistance, or 911 in an emergency. More information is online at www.ema.ohio.gov.

Storm Report Lauds Service 'Above & Beyond'

Service providers for individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the state had a very hectic weekend scrambling to accommodate many abrupt changes, including re-location, during

the storm and its aftermath, and lack of electrical power continuing today and through this week. Here's one report from Than Johnson, CEO, Champaign Residential Services Inc.:

"I want to thank everyone for the outstanding work performed by our staff during the recent storm and power outages. We have no reports of injury or medical emergencies in any of the 30 counties we serve. Communication with the local County Boards, parents, guardians, and family members was stellar, and we thank many of them for their able assistance when needed. The use of alternate settings, even making use of the Urbana CRSI office showers and air conditioning, resulted in making things as comfortable for individuals as possible. We have some limited areas still without power, but every individual has a suitable living arrangement, even if it's temporary, until power comes back to specific locations. Thanks again." He added,

"County Board staff did a great job in coordinating with our staff on back-up plans and family contacts. That was very helpful."

If you would like to share a story regarding extra efforts during the June 29 weekend storm, please email it to Sherry.Steinman@dodd.ohio.gov and include a photo, if available.



5. ODMH/ODADAS Agency Consolidation Information

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) Director Tracy Plouck, and Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) Director Orman Hall have announced the launch of a website dedicated to the topic of the consolidation of the two agencies. As announced earlier this year by Governor John Kasich, the two agencies will be merged in order to reduce the cost of service administration to the populations served, making more funds available for treatment, as well as other 'common sense' efficiencies. Effective date for the merger is July 1, 2013.

In the recent announcement Plouck and Hall stated, "There is a great deal of work ahead of us to be sure the consolidation effort goes smoothly, and we plan to keep this website updated with all of the latest information on the subject."

The website is at <http://adamh.ohio.gov>

In addition, a survey has been prepared for interested Ohioans to weigh-in with thoughts on issues of priority for the consolidation. Results of the survey will be used to inform the project plan, and be reported to the project team. Feedback from the survey is anonymous. Specific questions also may be emailed to consolidationquestions@mh.ohio.gov.

The survey will be available until July 9th at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ConsolidationSurvey>

Specific questions also may be emailed to consolidationquestions@mh.ohio.gov.

A Little Background

The current systems' structure includes 50 county-based Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board areas that serve all 88 counties, with 47 combined Boards. Both state departments certify community-based mental health and addiction services agencies, approximately 300 addiction treatment agencies and 400 mental health agencies. A large number of community service providers are certified for both mental illness and addiction care.

Recognizing and valuing the unique characteristics of each agency, there also are areas of commonality, including:

- Mental illnesses and addictions are both biological brain disorders with genetic and/or neuro-biological factors;
- The destructive capacities of both kinds of illnesses are enormous and the cost to society, in general, is similarly great; and,
- Clients will benefit from specific expertise in prevention, assessment, treatment, and knowledge of best practices by clinicians who specialize in substance abuse and/or mental illness, even without a dual diagnosis.

In addition, both departments have recognized that it is crucial to treatment success that addiction services and mental illness services be maintained with programmatic integrity, and as funding priorities.



6. National Association Collaborates with OADSP Credentials

Earlier this month, Deborah Fogg, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in the Cleveland area, was named the first DSP from Ohio to achieve the national accreditation credential through the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP). Prior to this, she had the Certificate of Initial Proficiency (CIP) and the Certificate of Advanced Proficiency (CAP) through Ohio's PATHS training and certification program via the Ohio Alliance – OADSP.

PATHS is the Professional Advancement through Training and Education in Human Services training and credentialing program.
More at www.ohiopath.org



Debbie Fogg

About Debbie, Joe Macbeth, NADSP Executive Director, stated,

"Deborah's achievement will encourage the growth and development of others who have met the state standards to move to the next level and achieve a national certificate."

A recent collaborative agreement was signed by both the state (OADSP) and national (NADSP) organizations to provide a seamless transition toward further training and certification recognition and portability.

Read More About Debbie's Achievement

In the newest [Pipeline Quarterly](#) reporting on Spring 2012, just published!

Archived at [Pipeline Quarterly](#)



[PostScripts](#)

Autism Speaks - First National Conference, August 3-4

Autism Speaks has announced that its first National Conference for Families and Professionals will be Friday and Saturday, August 3 - 4, 2012 at the Hilton Columbus. The theme of the conference will be *Treating the Whole Person: Providing Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents with ASD*. [Full Announcement Here](#). More information at www.autismspeaks.org

SAVE THE DATE! September 12, Direct Support Professionals Event

The third annual Ohio Association of Direct Support Professionals (OADSP) recognition event will be hosted at the Xenos Complex in Columbus from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Free, fun, interactive, and motivational -- this event is *not to be missed* for celebrating the workers who care for and support Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Details available soon at www.OADSP.org, or contact Lisa Barnes toll free at (800) 862-2322, ext. 102.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! RSC DisAbility Jobs Summit, September 17-18

The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) is hosting a *DisAbility Jobs Summit: Connecting & Building Partnerships*, September 17-18, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., in Columbus. The Summit is designed to benefit employers, developmental disabilities professionals, vocational rehabilitation counselors and coordinators, mental health professionals, educators, and individuals with disabilities and their families. More than 500 attendees are expected. Contact: Chris Glover at Chris.Glover@rsc.ohio.gov, or call (614) 438-1430.

Twelfth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling Conference Set for October 26-27

Featured speakers at the Twelfth Annual Ohio Adult Sibling (SIBS) conference, October 26-27, at the Columbus Airport Marriott will include Dr. Ann Kaiser, Scott Osterfeld, and Rob Snow. More information about the conference is now online at www.ohiosibs.com. Questions regarding the conference or Ohio SIBS may be directed to the organization's new executive director, Linda Martens, at lmartens@ohiosibs.com.

Check out 'Sibling Stories'- Essays about siblings by people with disabilities, at <http://siblingstories.blogspot.com/>

SAVE THE DATE! Annual OCALI Conference, November 14-16

'OCALICON 2012' is scheduled for November 14-16, 2012 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. OCALICON is a national forum on autism, assistive technology, and low-incidence disabilities including visual impairments, hearing impairments, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Current research, trends, ideas, and solutions to improve the lives of individuals with autism and other disabilities will be shared. The event includes more than 150 sessions, a pre-conference workshop, a National Autism Leadership Summit and a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Summit. More at: <http://conference.ocali.org>.

Ohio Legal Rights Service Soon to Become 'Disability Rights Ohio'

Ohio Legal Rights Service (OLRS) soon will become 'Disability Rights Ohio' -- a non-profit corporation whose mission is to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Ohioans with disabilities. Disability Rights Ohio will replace Ohio Legal Rights Service as Ohio's Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system and Client Assistance Program (CAP) by October 1, 2012. For additional information about the transition, visit their website at <http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/>.

DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUI's call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns in these situations.

Pipeline Feedback ... from You to the State

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. *The DODD values subscriber confidentiality and does not intentionally share subscriber addresses with others. However, in the event of a public records request, the DODD will comply with all applicable Public Records Laws.*

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